

RIP
OFF
PRESS
INC.

75¢

E. Z. WOLF

By TED RICHARDS



JIMMY OTTER COMES TO
SPEND THE NIGHT AT
E. Z. WOLF'S SHACK!



E.Z. WOLF

◉ IN ◉
" JIMMY OTTER
SLEPT HERE "
By
TED RICHARDS

PRESIDENT JIMMY OTTER HAS RETURNED HOME FOR A WELL DESERVED REST. BUT IT'S GETTIN' LATE SO HE'S DECIDED TO DO A LITTLE POLITICKING AND SPEND THE NIGHT WITH A GENUINE BACKWOODS DENIZEN, E-Z WOLF!!



JIMMY CAN'T BELIEVE E.Z. IS SERIOUS ABOUT MAKING HIM SLEEP ON THE FLOOR!

UH...LOOK E.Z... (HOW CAN I SAY THIS?)... UM... O.K.! I'M THE PRESIDENT AND I NEED MY REST!!

HEY JIMMY... I'M SORRY! BUT WE REALLY DON'T HAVE NO EXTRA BEDS! MAYBE YOUR SECRET SERVICE BOYS COULD GO FETCH YOU ONE!

I CAN'T DO THAT!

WHY NOT?!



C'MON E.Z., YOU DONE CARRIED THIS JOKE TOO FAR! YOU KNOW HE'S DONE SAID IN FRONT OF THEM MEDIA FOLKS THAT HE DON'T MIND SLEEPIN' ON THE FLOOR!

THAT'S RIGHT! WELL I GUESS HE CAN HAVE MY BED, 'CAUSE IF THEY SEE ONE BEIN' CARRIED IN, THEY'LL KNOW JIMMY WAS LYIN'!!

WELL THING'S SETTLE DOWN AND SOON JIMMY'S BEING TREATED TO A REAL SOUTHERN DINNER...

C'MON JIMMY... EAT UP! THERES LOTS OF GRITPIE LEFT! PLENTY OF KETCHUP TOO!

OH, NO THANKS E.Z... BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

Y'KNOW WE GOT OUR NEHO COLAS SPECIAL AT THE PICK-N'CHON!



AND SO THE EVENING PASSES ON...

YEAH SUH! I'M TELLIN' YOU JIMMY... THEM OL' RUSSIANS THINK THEY CAN FOOL YOU!

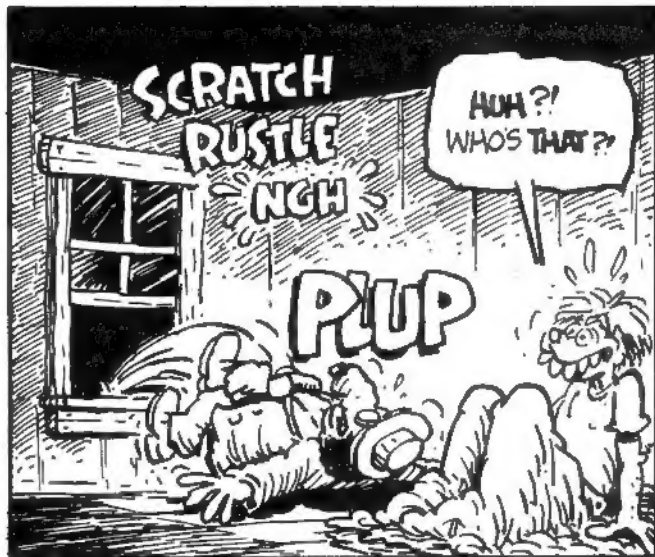
WELL...WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! WHEN! IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY... SAY.. WHAT TIME Y'ALL GO TO BED?

SOON AS IT'S COOL ENOUGH! WHICH IS ABOUT NOW! C'MON I'LL SHOW YOU MY BED!

WELL THERE IT IS... I GUESS I COULD CLEAN IT UP A BIT...

UH...NEVER MIND E.Z... I THINK I'LL SLEEP ON THE FLOOR AFTER ALL...





THE SECRET SERVICE
RESPONDS QUICKLY
TO THE CRY OF
ASSASSIN!!

WHIRR

WHAT'S
GOIN' ON
E.Z.!!

WALTER'S FLASH-
BULB EXPLODED
AN' THE SECRET
SERVICE THINKS
HES AN
ASSASSIN!!

NO! WAIT!
I'M WALTER WEASEL
FROM TH' NEW YORK NEWS!

BIAM

THWIP

FING

POW

BOOM

EZ! EZ!

BABY! WHAT'S
ALL THE SHOOTIN'
ABOUT OUTSIDE?

BANG

ELVIRA!!
I TOLD YOU
TO STAY
IN BED!

POW

AHEM... UH... JIMMY... THIS
HERE'S ELVIRA... UH... SHE
WORKS DOWN AT TH' SHAKE
PIT AN' GOT OFF LATE AN'
WASNT ABLE TO MEET
YOU... HA HA...

EEE(GIGGLE)...
WHY IT'S JIMMY
OTTER!! E.Z.
YOU DIDNT
EVEN TELL ME!!

MR OTTER! TELL
THEM I'M A
MEMBER OF
TH' PRESS!!

CRASH!
HUH?!

OOOOO! CAN
I HAVE YOUR
AUTOGRAPH!!

FLASH

OOHH! OUF-A-SITE!
CAN I HAVE
A PRINT!?

NO! WAIT!
STOP!!

BUT A FEW MOMENTS LATER, PRESIDENT
OTTER HAS THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

'FILMS ALL
BURNED MR.
PRESIDENT..

THERE! NOW
DONT WE ALL
FEEL BETTER
WALTER?

YES MR OTTER.
THANK YOU FOR
DROPPING THE
ATTEMPTED
ASSASSINATION
CHARGE!

HAVING SOLVED THE STICKY SITUATION WITH THE MEDIA, PRESIDENT OTTER NOW DEALS WITH E.Z. WOLF.

IT'S O.K. ABOUT THE FILM YOU BURNED MR. OTTER! I HAVE PLENTY MORE!!

I'M SORRY E.Z., BUT I JUST CAN'T AFFORD YOUR HOSPITALITY!! IF WALTER WEASEL HAD GOTTEN AWAY WITH THAT PICTURE OF ELVIRA CLINGIN' TO ME, I'D HAVE BEEN DONE FOR!

THUMP THUMP

JIMMY, I GUESS YOU'RE SAYIN' WE AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU... BUT ELVIRA MEANT NO HARM, AN' WE AIN'T APOLOGIZIN'! I'LL GET YOUR THINGS!

ESPECIALLY IN YOUR UNDERWEAR!

WHILE JIMMY FRESHENS UP IN THE BATHROOM, E.Z. PACKS HIS BAGS.

WOO BOY! JIMMY'S GOT SOME NERVE! I THINK HE'S DONE FORGOT HE WAS BORN 'N' RAISED AROUND HERE!!

THAT'S FOR DAMN SURE! HE SHOULD BE TAUGHT A GOOD LESSON THAT'D REMIND HIM OF THE FACT!!

HOW'S THAT? WHAT COULD WE DO?

HA! I GOT AN IDEA!! RUN GO FETCH THAT OL' BOBCAT WE GOT IN THE CAGE OUT BACK!!

?

WELL... HE'S A LITTLE WASTED BUT THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF FIGHT LEFT IN HIM!

HUSH BOY! YOU TAKIN' A TRIP TO JIMMY'S HOUSE?

I JUST WISH I COULD BE THERE WHEN JIMMY OPENS THIS UP!

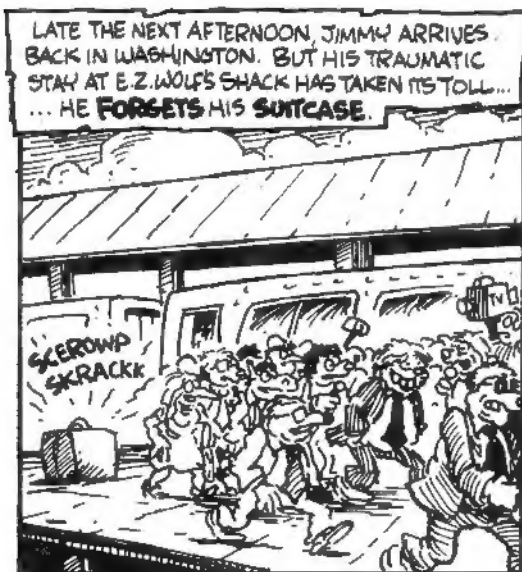
GURP SCREEOW

JIMMY?! YOUR BAGS ARE READY...

OK. E.Z... BE RIGHT THERE!

SCREEOW

SCREET



AT DAWN, WE FIND JIMMY OTTER'S SUITCASE BEING LOADED INTO AN UNMARKED SUPERSONIC JET FIGHTER.

ZE SUITCASE EES MAKING UN-EXPLAINED NOISE!

HAVE NO FEAR COMRADE. EET IS PROBABLY A DEVICE TO FRIGHTEN THIEVES!!

SCROWD SCRIII

THE JET TAKES OFF FROM THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND BASE AND ARCS EASTWARD

MEANWHILE BACK IN CHITTERLAND COUNTY.

I AINT HEARD ONE WORD YET ABOUT THAT BOBCAT WE STUFFED IN OL' JIMMY'S SUITCASE!!

AN' WE WONT NEITHER! JIMMY WOULDN'T DARE ALLOW SUCH A THING TO GET OUT! BUT I BETCHA' HE GOT TH' MESSAGE!!

WHILE AT THE WHITEHOUSE

STILL NO WORD FROM THE RUSSIANS JIMMY... APPARENTLY THEY WANT TO EXAMINE SOME ADDITIONAL DATA BEFORE MAKING A DECISION...

WELL, NOTHIN' WE CAN DO BUT WAIT!... UH... HAVE THEY FOUND MY SUITCASE YET? I'M MAKING A SPEECH TONIGHT AND NEED MY SUSPENDERS.

EIGHTEEN LONG GRUELING HOURS LATER, THE JET FIGHTER FINALLY ARRIVES AT ITS DESTINATION...

ZE SUITCASE! HE HAS ZE SUITCASE!

QUICK! RUSH IT TO ZE KREMLIN!

GOOD JOB COMRADE HOUNDSKOV!! THEY TELL ME THEES PREZIDENT OTTER IS FROM ZE ZOUTH!—A LAND KNOWN FOR EIS CLEVER... HOW THEY SAY... HORSETRADERS!

VE ZWILL SEE HOW CLEVER!

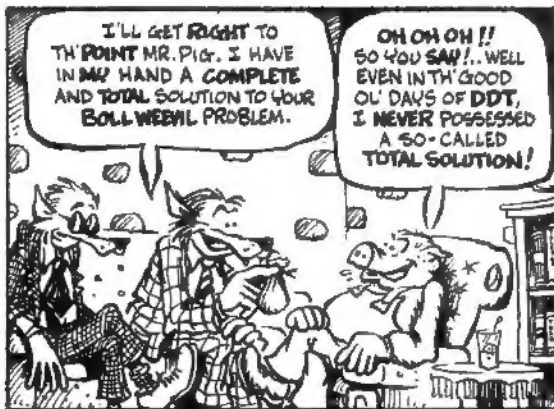
OPEN ZE SUITCASE!!!

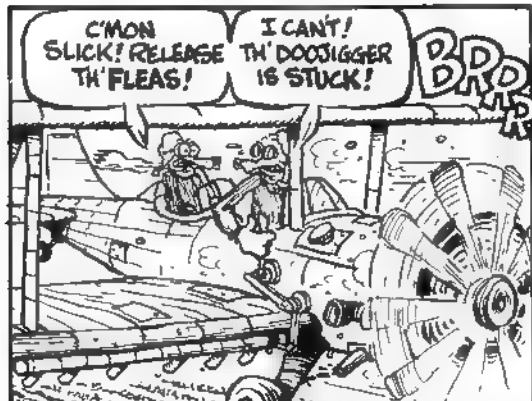
THE END!

TALES OF EZEKIEL WOLF

By Ted Richards

HARD TIMES HAVE
FALLEN UPON
TH' COMMON FOLK
OF CHITTERLAND
COUNTY, AND
OL' E.Z. WOLF
AN' SLICK FOX
HAVE BEEN
RACKIN' THEIR
BRAINS FOR
A SOLUTION.





E.Z. WOLF "PAYS THE RENT" BY TED RICHARDS

E.Z.! SHERIFF ALABAMA'S A-COMIN' TO COLLECT THE RENT!

QUICK! GRAB SOME ROPE! I GOT AN IDEA ON HOW TO FOOL 'IM THIS TIME!

OPEN UP IN THERE E.Z.!! OR I'M A-BUSTIN' IN!!

**THACK-
BANG**

WELL LORD HAVE MERCY... O' E.Z. WOLF AND SLICK FOX HAVE DONE DONE THEMSELVES IN...

... THAT'S TOO BAD... I WAS ALWAYS HOPIN' TO HAVE TH' SATISFACTION OF SHOOTIN' 'EM... IN FACT I THINK I'LL SHOOT 'EM ANYWAY!

HAW HAW HAW! KEEP ON A-DANCIN' WHILE I COLLECT THE MONEY!

NO! WAIT! STOP!

**BLAM!
BLAM!**

WONDER HOW HE KNEW WE WEREN'T DEAD?!

DAMN IF I KNOW!

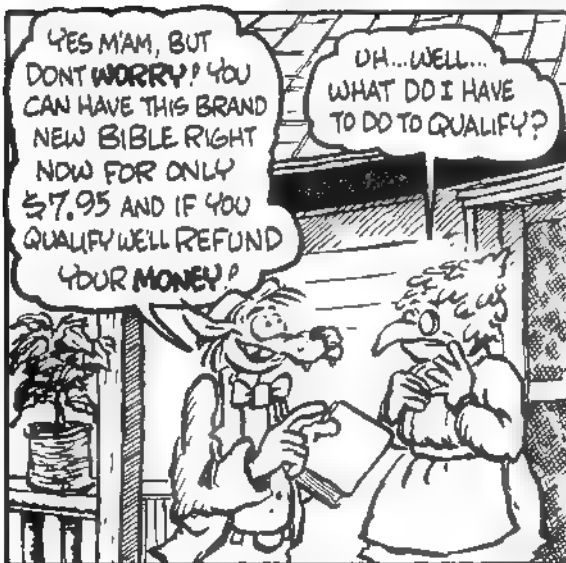
THEY WERE STILL DRY IN TH' BRITCHES!

E.Z. WOLF

"BIBLE SALESMAN"



BY TED RICHARDS



E. Z. WOLF

"JIMMY OTTER GETS SOME DOWN HOME ADVICE"

BY TED RICHARDS



E.Z. WOLF

JIMMY OTTER
GETS AN
EAR FULL!

BY TED RICHARDS

HELLO!? JIMMY??
WHA-HOO! IT'S ME.
E.Z. WOLF AND SLICK
FOX, AN' BRER BILL GOAT,
WE'RE ALL HERE JIMMY!
HOW YOU DOIN'??

REAL GOOD E.Z.! GLAD
T'HEAR FROM Y'ALL, ER...
DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION
TO ASK?

YEEHOO!

IT'S HIM!
E.Z.'S GOT
JIMMY ON
TH' PHONE!

UH... LET'S SEE... OH!
HEY JIMMY... HOW
ABOUT GIVIN' ME A JOB
UP THERE IN THE WHITE
HOUSE? I COULD TAKE
REAL GOOD CARE OF
THEM FANCY CARS OF
YOURS!

UH... WELL,
FIRST OF ALL
WE'VE GOT IN
HALF TH' NUMBER
OF LIMOUSINES
SERVING TH' WHITE HOUSE.

BUT I TELL
YOU WHAT E.Z.,
SEND ME A
RESUME AND
YOU'LL BE
CONTACTED!

RESUME!
C'MON JIMMY,
YOU KNOW I
CAN FIX
CARS!

GIMME THAT PHONE! I
GOT SOMETHIN' TO TELL JIMMY!
... JIMMY! I DON'T LIKE TH'
WAY THAT OL' EDEE AMEN'S BEEN
A-CARRYIN' ON! WHY DON'T YOU
SEND TH' KLU KLUX KLAN
AFTER THAT UPPITY YOU KNOW
WHAT?!

WELL BILL... ER... AH
AHEM. THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT DOESN'T RESPOND
TO INTERNATIONAL CRISES IN
THAT MANNER. BYE NOW.

THAT'S ALL THE
TIME WE HAVE. THERE
ARE OTHER CITIZENS
TRYING TO REACH
THE PRESIDENT.

UH WAIT! HOL!
ON JIMMY!
SIS FOX WANTS
TO SAY HOWDY!

BUT A FEW DAYS LATER DEEP IN THE HEART OF AFRICA

ANTEBEE
AIRPORT
UGAGA

E.Z. WOLF

"KNOCKIN'
ON HEAVEN'S
DOOR"

By
TED RICHARDS

IT'S SUNDAY
AND THE TOWN
OF TERMINUS'
OWN REVEREND
ISAIAH
BRIMSTONE
ADDRESSES
HIS FLOCK.



AND I CAN SAY
TO YOU, JESUS CHRIST
WILL GIVE YOU ANY-
THING YOU WANT, IF
YOU JUST TAKE HIM
INTO YOUR HEART!

THERE'S THIS MAN
I KNOW... BORN 'N'
BRED 'ROUND HERE.
HE DECIDED TO TAKE
JESUS INTO HIS
HEART AND I'LL
TELL YOU WHAT
THE LORD DID
FOR HIM!!



HE IS NOW THE PRESIDENT OF
THESE UNITED STATES!! YES
HE IS!! AND ALL BECAUSE HE
HEARD THAT EVER SO FAINT
KNOCKING OF CHRIST AT THE
DOORSTEP OF HIS HEART!!



YES. AND HE DOES KNOCK!
JESUS COMES TO EVERY HEART
AND HE JUST GOES TAP TAP TAP
AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS
OPEN UP YOUR HEART
AND LET HIM IN!!

NOW I WANT
EVERYBODY TO
LISTEN...



ARE YOU
LISTENIN'?
ARE YOU...

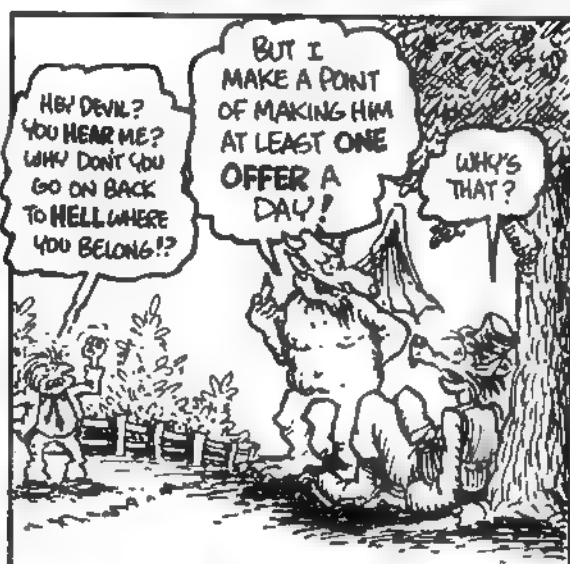
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK



HEY-YO!
IS THERE ANYBODY
IN THERE? THE
LORD HIMSELF
HAS DONE
SENT ME
TO THIS
DOOR!!

GODHELP
US! IT'S
JIM CROW!!





TALES OF EZEKIEL WOLF

By
Ted Richards

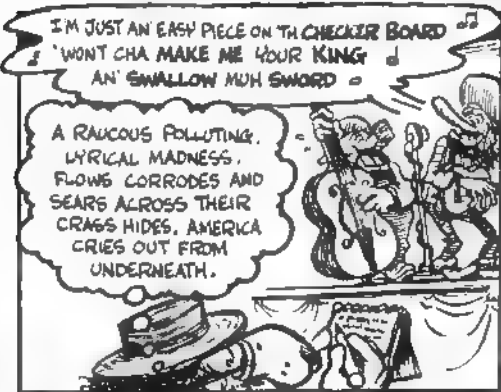
MASHVILLE

COME TH'EARLY
FALL, TH' FOLKS
OF CHITTERLAND
COUNTY, RICH AND
POOR ALIKE, ALL
GET TOGETHER AN'
CELEBRATE
TH PASSING OF
SUMMER WITH A
GREAT BIG OL'
SHINDIG...

BOY SLICK!
IF YOU DONT LOOK
LIKE SOMETHIN'
FIT T' KILL...

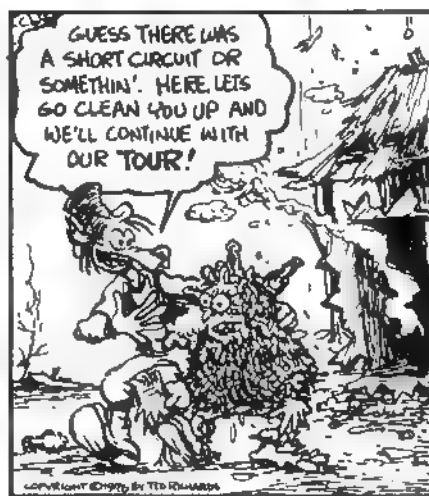
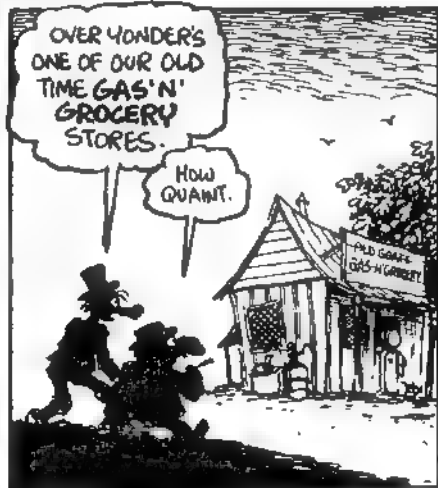
I KNOW
IT, E.Z..
I KNOW
IT!





THE WIT AND WISDOM WOLF

BY TED RICHARDS



WALTER PASSES ON THE OFFER FOR A GUIDED TOUR OF THE **NUCLEAR POWER PLANT** AND INSTEAD DECIDES TO INVESTIGATE A LOCAL **CULTURAL PHENOMENON**



WELL THERE SHE IS WALTER- A REAL HONEST TO GOODNESS GOOD OL' BOY BAR!

FANTASTIC!



A FEW BEERS LATER.

THIS IS REALLY AUTHENTIC! YOU KNOW I CAN'T HELP BUT CONTRAST THIS SCENE WITH THAT FOUND IN NEW YORK CITY BARS!!

OH YEAH.. WHAT'S IT LIKE IN THEM NEW YORK BARS?



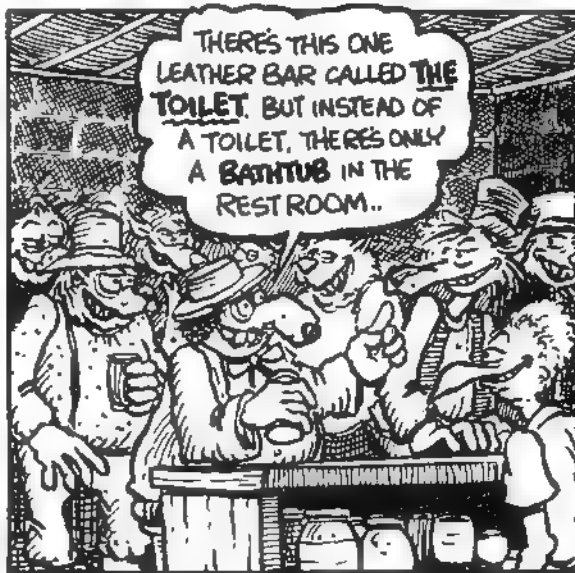
WELL...FOR ONE THING, THEY LACK THE FRIENDLY CAMARADERIE THIS PLACE EMANATES. YOU SEE STRANGERS AREN'T WELCOME IN MOST NEW YORK BARS..



IN FACT, SOME BARS ARE SADO-MASOCHISTIC, AND STRANGERS ARE UNWITTINGLY REGARDED AS VICTIMS!



THERE'S THIS ONE LEATHER BAR CALLED THE TOILET. BUT INSTEAD OF A TOILET, THERE'S ONLY A BATHTUB IN THE REST ROOM..



BUT HERE AT THE TURKEY FOOT TAVERN, YOU FELLOWS, (ER BOYS), TRULY ENJOY EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP... (AN ANACHRONISM IN A WAY BUT I LIKE IT !!)



HEY E.Z.? GOT ANY MORE LIKE HIM?..

HAW HAW HE SURE WAS A GOOD ONE!!

GOOD SPORT TOO!!



WALTER CHALKS UP THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S VIOLENCE TO NAIVE STUPIDITY ON HIS PART AND BY THE NEXT DAY WE FIND HIM DEEP IN THOUGHT.

'ERE YOU GO PIG BOY! DAMN IF YOU DON'T LOOK JUST LIKE A REAL SWAMP FIGHTER. NOW RUN'N GO SHOW YOUR MAMA!

O.K. E.Z.!!

CHUCKLE...THERE IS SOMETHING **UNIQUE** AND **DISTINCTIVE** ABOUT THE **HUMOR** HERE IN THE SOUTH. SOMEONE SHOULD WRITE A **BOOK** ON THE SUBJECT.



THAT'S IT! A **BOOK!** I CAN USE SOME OF THE MATERIAL FROM MY ARTICLES ON THE **NEW SOUTH** TO HELP **STRUCTURE** THE **CENTRAL THEME!**

HMM...BUT THE **WIT** AND **WISDOM** OF THE **NEW SOUTH SOUNDS** TOO **ACADEMIC...** I KNOW. I'LL BUILD MY STORY AROUND A **CENTRAL CHARACTER** ...I GOT IT! I'LL USE **E.Z. WOLF!**

HEY E.Z.!! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ME WRITE A **BOOK** TITLED "THE **WIT** AND **WISDOM** OF **E.Z. WOLF**?"

HMM. NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE A **GREAT IDEA!!** LET'S SEE...WHERE'S A **GOOD PLACE** TO **BEGIN?**



UH...HOW ABOUT THE **JOKE** YOU WERE JUST **PLAYIN'** ON THAT **LITTLE PIG BOY?** YOU KNOW ANYMORE **JOKE**S **SIMILAR** TO THAT ONE?

SURE! BUT FIRST **SHAKE HANDS** WITH ME **WALTER** SO I KNOW WE GOT A **DEAL.**

A'RIGHT.



ACCK! **DEAD CATERPILLAR!**

HA HA HA...NOW WE'RE IN **BUSINESS** **WALTER!**



WALTER WEASEL, BEING A TRAINED JOURNALIST, QUICKLY RECOVERS FROM THE HUMILIATING PRACTICAL JOKE PLAYED ON HIM BY E.Z. WOLF.

HA HA... THAT WAS A REALLY CLEVER JOKE E.Z... UH... WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A RAG I CAN USE TO CLEAN THIS DEAD CATERPILLAR OFF MY HANDS?

SURE WALTER. HERE.

YEAH. WELL THE DEAD CATERPILLAR JOKE IS REALLY QUITE EASY. YOU SEE YOU HIDE IT UP YOUR SLEEVE AND BY TH' TIME YOU SHAKE HANDS IT'S DONE CRAWLED DOWN INTO YOUR PALM!

AHH! THIS RAG SOAKED WITH PINE TAR!!



WHOOOPS! I'M SORRY WALTER. HERE. WASH IT OFF WITH THIS PAINT THINNER

UH... WELL, O.K... ER... AH YOU KNOW I REALLY DON'T MIND BEING THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR JOKES E.Z. IN FACT, THE SUCCESS OF "OUR" BOOK DEPENDS UPON MY DOCUMENTING THE COMPLETE RANGE OF YOUR HUMOR! SO BE MY GUEST!!

WELL I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT WALTER, 'CAUSE SO FAR YOU HAVE ONLY SEEN TH' TIP OF TH' ICEBERG! ... SAY, YOU GOT A MATCH?

SURE E.Z...

WELL I'M PLEASSED THAT WE COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.



I KNEW THIS OL' FIRE EXTINGUISHER WOULD COME IN HANDY ONE DAY... HOLD STILL WALTER!!

YIPE!
YIP YIP

PROOSH!



HERE. LET ME RUB SOME COLD BUTTER ON THOSE HANDS...

WALTER?

YEEEE!!!



THE NEXT MORNING, WALTER WEASEL DECIDES TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH E. Z. WOLF DESPITE THE HUMILIATIONS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY.

WALTER, I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY. I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOUR HANDS TO CATCH FIRE. LET'S SHAKE AN' BE FRIENDS...

UH...WE DONT NEED TO SHAKE...
...HA HA... LISTEN. I FEEL I HAVE ENOUGH MATERIAL ON YOUR WIT... NOW HOW ABOUT A LITTLE WISDOM?

WELL HERES YOUR CHANCE! I STOLE THESE PULLETS' LAST NIGHT AND HERE COMES SHERIFF ALABAMA!!



SAH UH E. Z... MIND IF I ASK WHERE YOU GOT THEM NICE FAT PULLETS? IT SEEMS OL' MR. PIGMAN'S COOP WAS BROKEN INTO LAST NIGHT.

SORRY SHERIFF. I GOT THESE PULLETS AT TH' GROCERY!

FANTASTIC! AN ENCOUNTER WITH AN ARCHETYPICAL FAT SOUTHERN SHERIFF.

WELL I ALREADY FIGURED IT WASN'T YOU, 'CAUSE THE FOOL WHO DID BREAK IN GOT HIS HANDS MESSED UP AWFUL BAD... YOU SEE THERE WAS A COON TRAP SET BEHIND TH' LATCH AND IT WAS COVERED WITH BLOOD!!

OOOH THAT SOUNDS BAD SHERIFF. WELL YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE NO TROUBLE CATCHIN' UP WITH THAT CULPRIT!



OH SHERIFF I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET WALTER WEASEL. HE'S A NEW YORK REPORTER DOIN' A BOOK ON ME...

WHY SURE!

AMAZING! HE SLIPPED RIGHT BY!



SHRIEK! WAIL!! I'M INNOCENT! I HAVE MY RIGHTS!

HUSH BOY 'FORE I GIVE YOU ONE OF YD' RIGHTS!

HEY WALTER! THERES SOME GOOD STUFF WRITTEN ON THE JAIL-HOUSE WALLS!



NEW YORK REPORTER WALTER WEASEL HAS JUST SPENT HIS FIRST NIGHT IN A REAL BONA FIDE SOUTHERN JAIL!

UH...OH, JUST FOR THE RECORD: HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO BAIL ME OUT OF JAIL?

I HAD TO GIVE THE SHERIFF A COUPLA' OF THEM PULLETS HE THOUGHT YOU STOLE!

AND SO A FEW MARATHON HOURS LATER.

A'RIGHT WALTER, THE TITLE "THE WIT AND WISDOM OF E.Z. WOLF" IS TO BE COPYRIGHTED BY E.Z. HERE. AND WE'VE ALSO AGREED THAT E.Z. RETAINS ALL FILM, T.V., PLAY, AND CEREAL BOX RIGHTS... YOU'RE TO RECEIVE 25% ON ONE TIME HARD COVER BOOK RIGHTS AND 10% ON THE NET PAPERBACK PROFITS. NOW JUST SIGN RIGHT 'ERE ON PAGE 273 AN' WE GOT A DEAL!

THE END

TALES OF EZEKIEL WOLF

By
Ted Richards

WHAT EVER HAPPENED
TO SPECKLE PIG?

AS LONG AS
I LIVE,
I'LL NEVER
FORGET THAT
MISTY SUMMER
MORN. A FEW
YEARS BACK,
WHEN TH' VOICE
OF MR. P.J. PIG
CAME CRACKLIN'
OVER TH' PHONE...



HELLO, SHERIFF
ALABAMA P. I THINK
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED
TO MY NEPHEW,
SPECKLE PIG !!

I'M
L STENIN'.



I SHOULD HAVE
NEVER LET SPECKLE
WALK TO TOWN ALL
BY HIMSELF !!



AT FIRST I COULDN'T FIGURE WHETHER
SPECKLE PIG WAS JUST LOST OR HAD
BECOME A VICTIM OF FOUL PLAY...

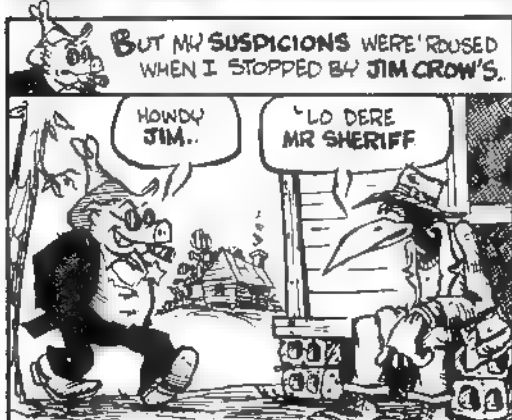


NOW JUST SIT
TIGHT MR PIG..
I'LL MOSEY ON DOWN
TH' ROAD A WAYS AN'
AST AROUND...

BUT MY SUSPICIONS WERE 'ROUSED
WHEN I STOPPED BY JIM CROW'S.

HOWDY
JIM..

'LO DERE
MR SHERIFF



YAS SUH! I SHO'
DID !! HE WAS GWINE
ON DOWN DE ROAD TOWS
E. Z. WOLF'S CRIB, AN'
DAT'S DE LAS' I SEEN ER
DAT SPECKLE PIG !!



POOR LIL' SPECKLE PIG
WAS LAST SEEN TRAIPIN' OFF
TWARDS E. Z. WOLF'S SHACK!



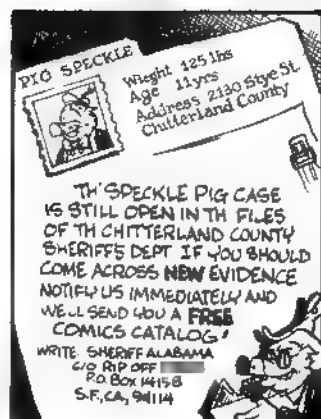
IT WAS THERE I DISCOVERED TH FIRST
OF THREE GRISLY CLUES..



GNAW!
GRISTLE!

SNATCH!





EZEKIEL WOLF

NOTICE BOARD

1	2	3	4	5	6
GOOBERS	3	2	1	0	0
CHITTLINS	0	0	0	3	2

"I SIMPLY DO NOT WANT MY DAUGHTER BEING MOLESTED WHILE PLAYING BASEBALL WITH ALL THOSE ELEVEN-YEAR OLD BOYS!"

MS. PRUNELLA WREN
CHITTERLAND COUNTY



WELL HERE WE ARE, IN TH LAST HALF OF TH SIXTH INNING AND IT'S TH CHITTLIN'S LAST CHANCE... TH TYING RUN'S ON SECOND BASE...THERE'S TWO OUTS AND PENNY RABBIT STEPS UP TO TH' PLATE...



TH LANKY RIGHT-HANDER FOR TH GOOBERS WINDS-UP AND DELIVERS..



THERE'S A LINE SHOT TO DEEP CENTERFIELD!



IT'S IN THERE FOR EXTRA BASES!!



TH TYING RUN SCORES!! AND PENNY'S BEING WAVED HOME!!



WHAT A THROW FROM CENTERFIELD!



RIGHT ON TH' MONEY TO WILEY WOLF!



PENNY RABBIT IS OWWW... NO!!



SAFE!!



"JUS WAIT 'TIL YOU TRY AND TAG ME PENNY! UHA!!"

OH YEAH?, I CAN HARDLY WAIT WILEY, (GIGGLE)



E.Z. WOLF AS WOLFJACK

IN THE CASE OF THE MISSING QUACK

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THE DAY BEGAN INNOCENTLY ENOUGH. IT WAS RAINING, AND SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE A DOG WAS BARKING.



BY TED RICHARDS AND LARRY GONICK WITH A HELPING J MICHAEL HAND FROM: LEONARD

IHADN'T SEEN A CASE IN WHAT SEEMED LIKE SIX MONTHS. NOT THAT THIS WAS UNUSUAL FOR A PART-TIME DETECTIVE HERE IN **TERMINUS**, WHICH IS JUST ANOTHER SMALL TOWN IN THE DEEP SOUTH. BUT WHEN SOMETHIN' DOES HAPPEN, IT'S REALLY **STRANGE** AND **WEIRD**...



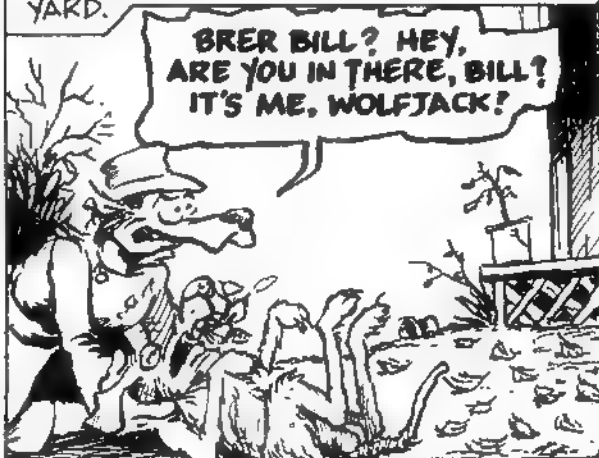
SUDDENLY THE DOG'S BARKING TURNED TO A VICIOUS **HOWL**. THEN SILENCE I DECIDED TO CHECK IT OUT...



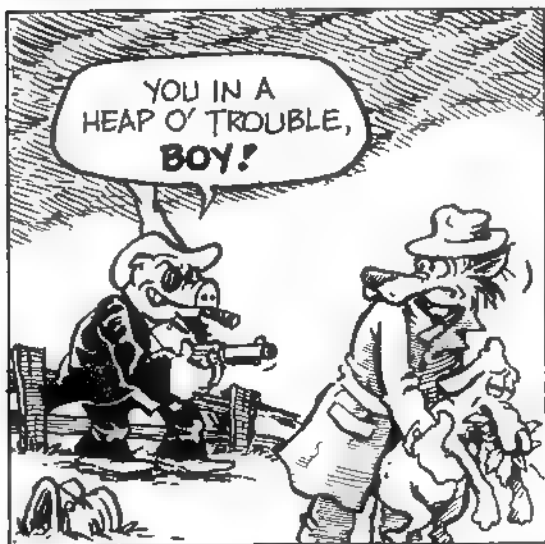
I FIGURED THE DOG'S BARK BELONGED TO **OL' HUNCHER**, BRER BILL GOAT'S COON HOUND. SO I HEADED ON UP TO HIS SHACK.



I FOUND **OL' HUNCHER** OUT COLD, AND **DUCK FEATHERS** STREWN ABOUT THE YARD.



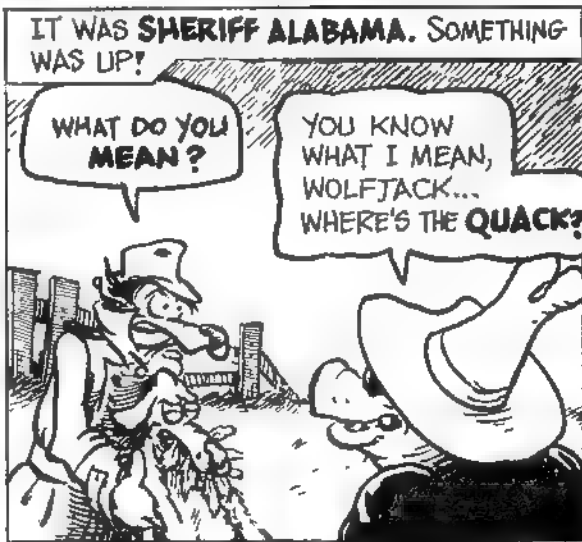
YOU IN A
HEAP O' TROUBLE,
BOY!



IT WAS **SHERIFF ALABAMA**. SOMETHING WAS UP!

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?

YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN,
WOLFJACK...
WHERE'S THE **QUACK?**



THE **QUACK?**
WHY I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN'
ABOUT, SHERIFF...

DON'T GET **WISE**
WITH ME, **BOY...**
... YOU'RE
STANDIN' IN THE
MIDDLE OF
DUCK FEATHERS
HOLDING A **DOG**
WITH A FEW
OF 'EM ON HIS
MOUTH!



C'MON, SHERIFF... WHAT
ARE YOU **CHARGIN'** ME
WITH?... MAKIN' **ILLEGAL**
PILLOWS OR SOMETHIN'?
YOU'RE BARKING UP
THE WRONG TREE AN'
YOU **KNOW** IT!

WELL... A'RIGHT,
WOLFJACK, BUT
IF YOU HAPPEN
TO SEE A CRAZY
LITTLE **DUCK**
AROUND HERE,
YOU LET ME
KNOW... IT'S
IMPORTANT...



A FEW HOURS LATER, I WAS MULLIN' IT ALL OVER IN MY OFFICE, WHEN SUDDENLY THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

C'MON IN...THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN...

KNOCK

I DIDN'T EXPECT WHAT SAUNTERED ACROSS MY MODEST THRESHOLD...

HELLO...ARE YOU MR. WOLFJACK?

UH-STUTTER-YES, MA'AM!
AND WHO, MAY I ASK,
ARE YOU?

I AM **DAGMAR**...I WAS TOLD BY FRIENDS YOU COULD BE **TRUSTED**...AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NOT FROM AROUND HERE AND I NEED **HELP** FROM A LOCAL-ER- **PRIVATE DETECTIVE**?

THAT I AM, MA'AM, AND A BIT **MORE**... HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

I WANT YOU TO FIND MY HUSBAND, **DR. QUINCY QUACK**?

UH... O.K., BUT **FIRST** I'LL NEED SOME **BACK-GROUND INFORMATION**...

IF YOU MUST...FIRST OF ALL, **QUINCY** IS A VERY **FAMOUS NUCLEAR SCIENTIST**. ALL OUR TROUBLES BEGAN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, WHEN HE PERFECTED A SUBATOMIC PROCESS THAT CONVERTED A **TREE** INTO A **BARREL OF OIL**!

BUT A **TREACHEROUS ASSISTANT** REPORTED HIS PROCESS TO THE **ARAB OIL CARTEL**, AND OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO A DAILY DIET OF **DANGER** AND **INTRIGUE** EVER SINCE. **QUINCY** FINALLY **FREAKED OUT** AND RAN AWAY TO HIDE IN YOUR SMALL TOWN. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND HIM, BUT I'M **SO FRIGHTENED**! I NEED **HELP**, AND - SNIF - ALL I HAVE IS **MONEY**....

UH... WELL, I THINK **WE**LL BE ABLE TO WORK SOMETHING OUT.

SOB!



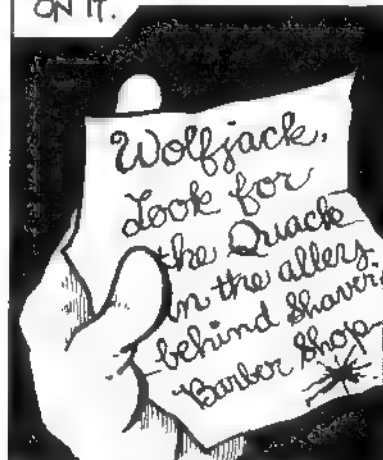
I WAS UP AND OUT EARLY TH' NEXT DAY, SO I STOPPED BY THE **PICK N' CHEW** FOR MY USUAL BREAKFAST OF A **MOONPIE** AND AN **R.C. COLA**.



WHEN I BIT INTO THE **MOONPIE**, A PIECE OF PAPER STUCK BETWEEN MY TEETH.



I PICKED IT OUT AND SAW IT HAD A MESSAGE WRITTEN ON IT.



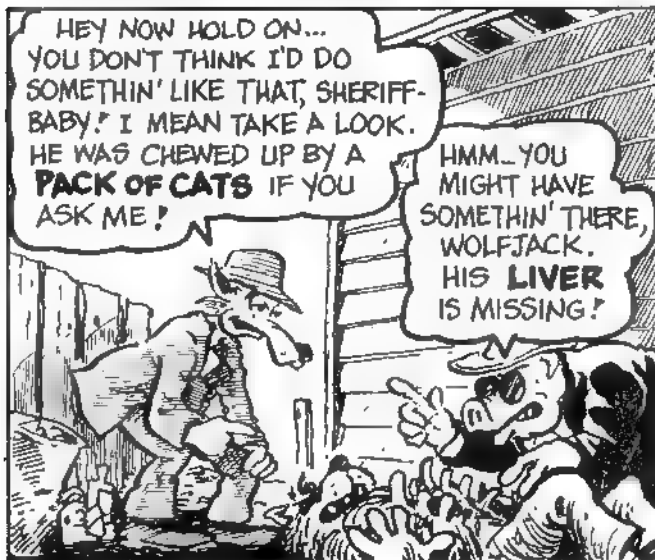
I HUSTLED OVER TO THE ALLEY AND STUMBLED UPON ONE OF THE **GRISLIEST** SIGHTS I'D SEEN SINCE NED CRANE MURDERED HIS WIFE WITH A LAWNMOWER.*



A'RIGHT, WOLFJACK? YOU IN A **HEAP O' TROUBLE** NOW? MURDERIN' A **GOV'M'T AGENT**?

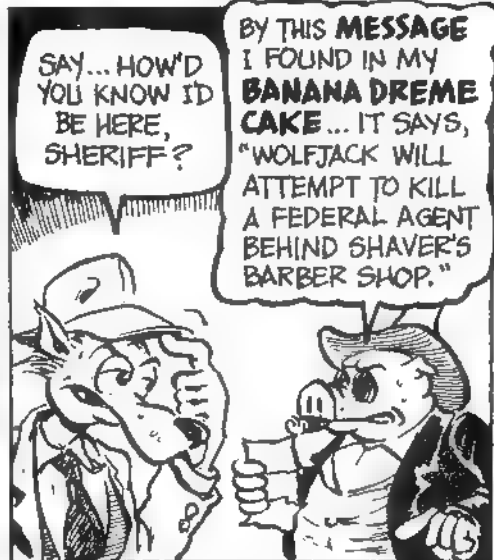


HEY NOW HOLD ON... YOU DON'T THINK I'D DO SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT, SHERIFF-BABY? I MEAN TAKE A LOOK. HE WAS CHEWED UP BY A **PACK OF CATS** IF YOU ASK ME!

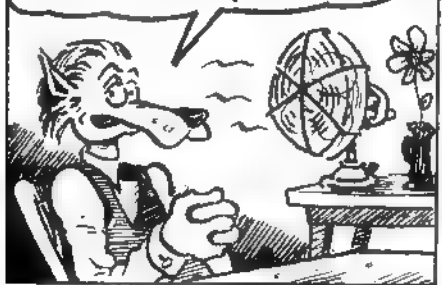


SAY... HOW'D YOU KNOW I'D BE HERE, SHERIFF?

BY THIS MESSAGE I FOUND IN MY **BANANA DREME CAKE**... IT SAYS, "WOLFJACK WILL ATTEMPT TO KILL A FEDERAL AGENT BEHIND SHAVER'S BARBER SHOP."



WELL, AFTER THE SHERIFF SHOWED ME HIS NOTE, I SHOWED HIM MINE, AND WE BOTH AGREED WE'D BEEN **SET UP**. IN TURN I MANAGED TO WEASEL OUT OF HIM THAT DAGMAR HAD BEEN BY HIS OFFICE AND HAD FILLED OUT A MISSING PERSON REPORT ON THE **QUACK...**



YEAH, WELL... WHAT ARE YOU GONNA TELL THE **FEDS** 'BOUT THEIR MAN GETTIN' CLAWED UP?



WELL, I'LL TELL 'EM A **SWAMP MONSTER** OR SOMETHIN' GOT HIM... BUT THEY **AIN'T** GONNA BELIEVE IT AND I TELL YOU WHAT... YOU AND BRER BILL BETTER CLOSE UP THAT NEW **MOONSHINE STILL**, 'CAUSE THEY'RE GONNA BE LOOKIN' FOR **BLOOD!**



I WASTED LITTLE TIME HEEDIN' THE SHERIFF'S ADVICE. BRER BILL WAS STILL MISSING FROM HIS SHACK, BUT **OL' HUNCHER** WAS UP AND AROUND, SO I TOOK HIM WITH ME UP TO THE NEW **MOONSHINE STILL**.



HEY BILL?! IT'S ME... **WOLFJACK!**

GO FIND BILL, HUNCHER! WHERE'S **BILL**? GO FIND HIM!



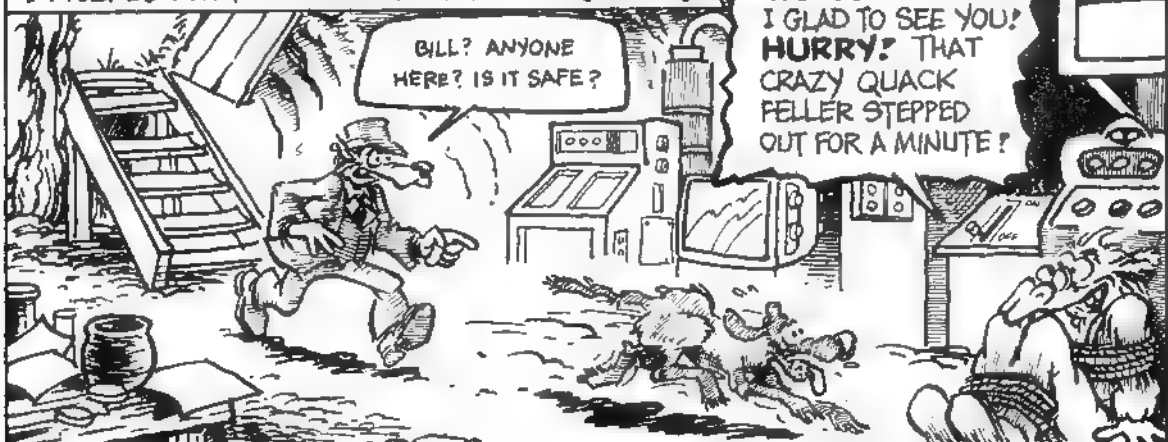
OL' HUNCHER HAD HIS FAULTS, BUT HE WAS ONE HELL OF A **COON DOG**, WITH A NOSE THAT WOULDN'T QUIT!



WHAT'S THAT? YOU SAY OL' BILL'S IN **THERE**, HUNCHER? WELL, LET'S TAKE A LOOK!



OL' HUNCHER HAD STUMBLED UPON WHAT LOOKED LIKE A **SECRET UNDERGROUND LABORATORY**, AND I FIGURED RIGHT OFF IT BELONGED TO THE **QUACK?**



FIRST LET'S GET YOU UNTIED... HUNCHER, YOU GUARD THAT DOOR...

NO NEED TO DO THAT, WOLFJACK. JUST KEEP AN EYE OUT ON THAT FANCY **T.V. SCREEN**, AN' YOU CAN SEE HIM A'COMIN'!



GOOD! WHILE WE'RE WAITIN', WHY DON'T YOU FILL ME IN ON WHAT THIS BOY'S UP TO!

WELP... I WAS FETCHIN' WOOD FOR THE **COOKER** ON THE **STILL**, WHEN I STUMBLED UPON THAT **DOOR** OUT THERE. I FOOLED AT IT FOR A MINUTE, THEN WENT TO GET A **CROWBAR**...

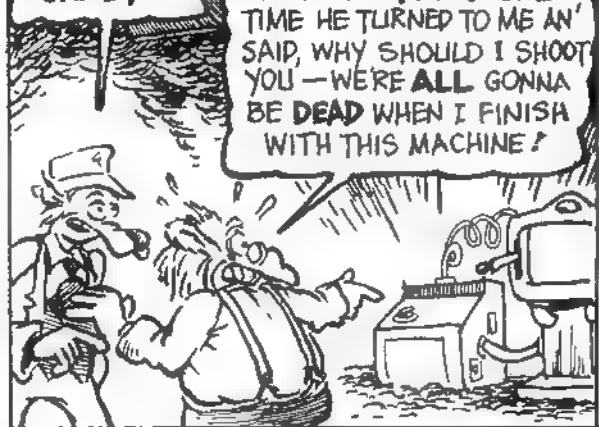


HE **JUMPED** ME WITH A GUN DOWN BY THE SHACK... OL' HUNCHER GOT A PIECE OF 'IM THOUGH, 'FORE HE WAS KNOCKED FLAT... BUT I'M TELLIN' YA WOLFJACK, **THIS QUACK IS CRAZY!** LET'S GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW, 'FORE HE COMES BACK??



HOLD ON, BILL... WHY DO YOU THINK HE'S **CRAZY**...

HE'S FOOLIN' WIT' TH' **DEVIL**, I TELL YA! SEE THAT MACHINE OVER YONDER? **HE TALKS TO IT!** ONE TIME HE TURNED TO ME AN' SAID, WHY SHOULD I SHOOT YOU - WE'RE **ALL** GONNA BE DEAD WHEN I FINISH WITH THIS MACHINE!



I CALMED BILL DOWN, AND WE SETTLED IN TO WAIT FOR THE QUACK...

YOU'RE RIGHT, BILL. THIS MACHINE **DOES** LOOK LIKE IT'S GOT SOMETHIN' TO DO WITH TH' DEVIL...

WOLFJACK!
IT'S THE QUACK!
HE'S COMIN'!

A COUPLE OF MINUTES LATER, I PLUCKED HIM OFF THE LADDER.

HUH!
AWK!
SQUANK!

HEY, YOU SURE ARE A LITTLE FELLER TO BE CAUSIN' SUCH BIG TROUBLE!

WE OUGHTA LET **OL' HUNCHER** GET A'HOLT OF 'IM!

HOLD ON, BILL! DR. QUACK'S WIFE IS WILLING TO PAY ME A NICE PILE OF CHANGE WHEN I TURN HIM OVER TO HER!

NO! NOT **DAGMAR!** SHE'S A NO-GOOD ROTTEN **STRUMPET!** SHE'LL HAVE ME **KILLED!** SHE **BETRAYED** ME! SOLD ME OUT!

BUT SHE'LL GET WHAT SHE DESERVES, IF I CAN ONLY FINISH MY MACHINE... SLOBBER SOB... **PLEASE** LET ME FINISH MY MACHINE... IT ONLY NEEDS THIS ONE PART..

I THINK **WE** MIGHT HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN SEEING HIS MACHINE COMPLETED, **WOLFJACK!**

DAGMAR!
AND... OH, NO!
THE CATMAN!

OH YES, DAGMAR... YOU'RE SO **WICKED**, BUT SO **WISE**... YES, A MACHINE THAT TURNS **TREES** INTO **OIL!** BUT I'VE WORKED SO LONG, SO HARD, THAT NOW (**SOB**) I WANT ONLY TO SEE IT **WORK!** THAT'S ALL! YOU CAN **HAVE** IT AFTER I'VE FINISHED! **HONEST!**

SINCE THE CATMAN HAD AN ARMYFUL OF VICIOUS TRAINED CATS, THE QUACK WAS ALLOWED TO FINISH HIS MACHINE!

HA HAHA NOW!!
STAND BACK AND BEHOLD
THE GRANDEST, MOST AWESOME
SCIENTIFIC INVENTION
OF ALL TIME!

HAHAHAHAHA
YOU FOOLS! YOU'LL NEVER
SEE A MACHINE THAT TURNS
TREES INTO OIL... BUT
INSTEAD MY ANTI-
MATTER BOMB! WHAT?

QUINCY! WHAT
ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT? YOU'LL
KILL ALL OF US!
IT'S ONLY **ME**
YOU WANT TO
HARM!

HAHAHA...YES (PANT)
(SLOBBER) NOT ONLY YOU,
DAGMAR... THE ONE
I LOVE... BUT THE
OTHERS WHO DARED
TO BASK IN YOUR
AFFECTIONS! FIRST IT
WAS THE **LAB BOYS!**

THEN MY COLLEAGUES...
I HEARD THE WHISPERS
BEHIND MY BACK...
(MOAN) **CUCKOLD!**
BRILLIANT, BUT A
CUCKOLD! WAIL!
THEN... THEN... THE
FOOTBALL TEAM!

NEANDERTHALS, ALL
OF THEM— COMPARED
TO MY GENIUS!!
(SOB) YES, I'M A
MEGALOMANIAC,
BUT I DON'T CARE
IF I'M **SICK!** I'M
GONNA DESTROY
THE WHOLE WORLD
ANYWAY!

HAHAHA
HAHA
SOB...CRY

FZZT
POB SMOLDER

PUSH!

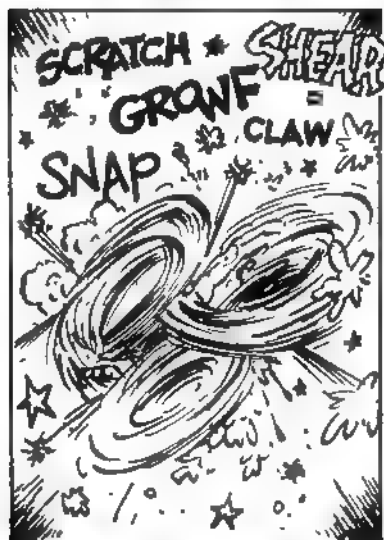
AWK! I
MADE A MISTAKE IN
MY CALCULATIONS!
 $2^p + 2^q = 4^p$, NOT
 5^p !!

POOSAI
PUSSIES!

NO!
DON'T!

LUCKY FOR THE QUACK, THERE
WAS ONE THING OL' HUNCHER
HATED WORSE THAN HIM: CATS!

GROWF



AFTER A MINUTE OR TWO WITH
THE LIKES OF OL' HUNCHER, THE
CATS TURNED CRAZY AN' LEAPED UP
AT THE CATMAN...

NO! NO!
PUSSIES!

IT WAS CURTAINS FOR
THE CATMAN!

GURGLE

OH! THE
CATMAN!!
I CAN'T BEAR
TO LOOK!

HEY! THEM
CATS TURNED BACK
TO **NORMAL** SOON
AS THE CATMAN
CROAKED!

PURR
PURR
PURR

A'RIGHT... I FIGURE
EVERYONE HERE'S GOT
A BIT OF **EXPLAININ'**
TO DO!

WE SPENT THE NEXT FEW MINUTES RUNNIN' OUR STORIES DOWN TO THE SHERIFF, AND HE SEEMED TO BE SATISFIED.

SO IT WAS THIS CATMAN WHO DID IN THAT **GOV'M'NT MAN...** WELL, THAT'S THE MAIN MONKEY OFF MY BACK AT LEAST.

YES... YOU SEE HE THOUGHT THE AGENT WAS LOOKING FOR THE QUACK AND FOLLOWED HIM UP TO THE **MOON-SHINE STILL!**

WELL, HE WAS NOTHIN' BUT AN OL' **ALCOHOL & TOBACCO TAX MAN...**

REALLY? OH, THE CATMAN WAS **SO RUTHLESS!** I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO ME... I GUESS IT WAS THE MONEY!

THAT'S ALL YOU'VE EVER LOVED, DAGMAR! **MONEY!**

OH WOLFJACK! TAKE ME AWAY FROM HIM! HE'S SUCH A LITTLE **CREEP!** I CAN'T STAND HIM!

UH... NOW, DAGMAR... I DON'T THINK YOU'RE MY TYPE... ER... UH... WHY DON'T YOU AN' THE QUACK HERE TRY GETTIN' ALONG WITH EACH OTHER?

UH, WELL... WHAT DO YOU SAY, TOOTS? WANT TO MAKE ANOTHER GO OF IT?

NOW I WOULDN'T BE TWO-TIMIN' ON HIM ANY MORE, 'CAUSE YOU SEE HOW **RILED UP** HE GETS!

WELL, QUINCY, I GUESS YOU DID MAKE YOUR POINT!

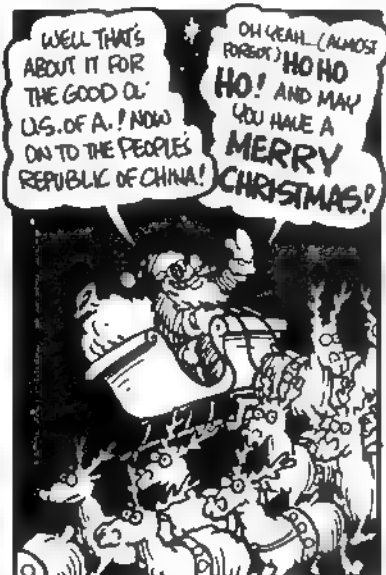
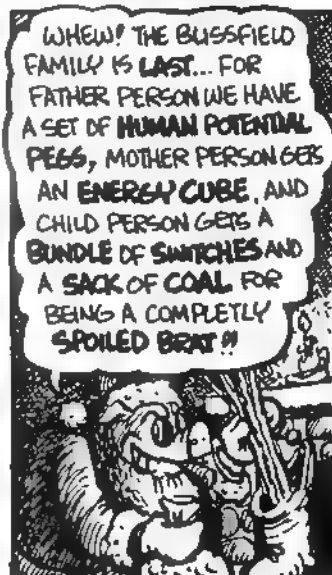
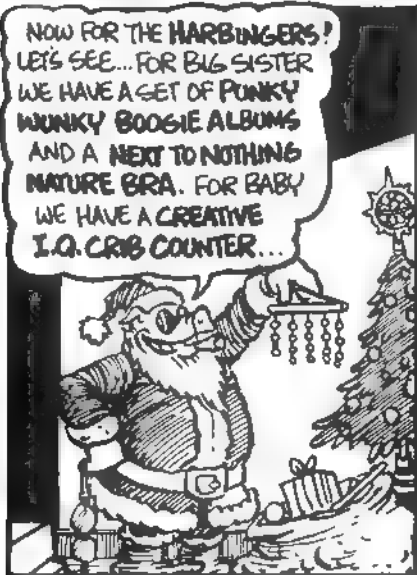
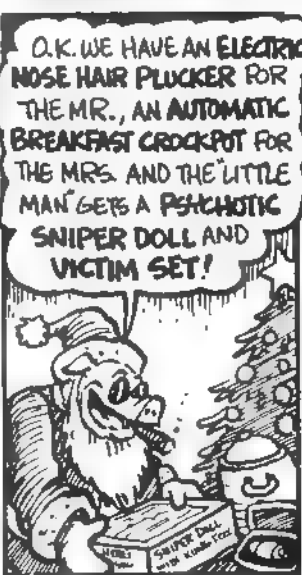
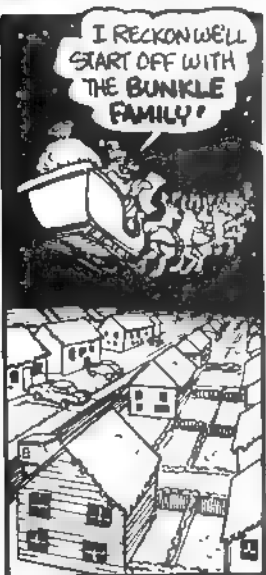
THE SHERIFF ENDED UP WITH TH' CATS, AN' OL' **BRRER BILL** AND I PUT THE QUACK'S **LABORATORY** TO GOOD USE!

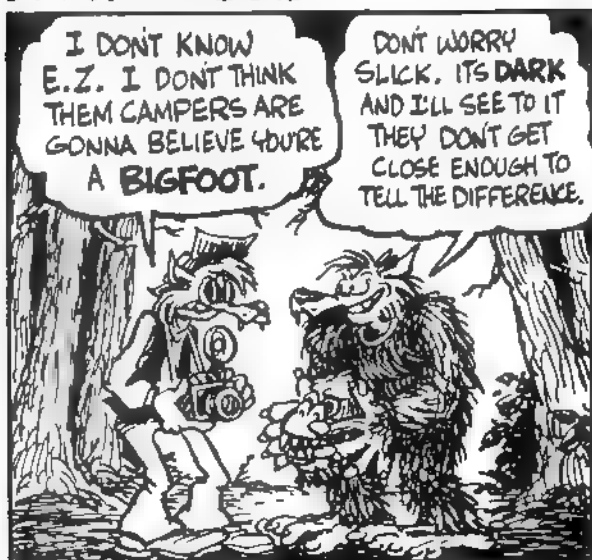
I THINK TH' COMPUTER'S GOT IT FIGURED OUT THIS TIME!

THE END

E.Z. WOLF

By TED RICHARDS





E.Z. WOLF

IN
ART POOR
OL' ART
BY TED RICHARDS

E.Z. WOLF'S COMING
UP THE ROAD!! HE'S
BACK FROM THE
GALLERIES!!

MAYBE HE
HAS MONEY
FOR US!

ART COLONY
PAINTINGS
SCULPTURE
GIFTS

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BY TED RICHARDS

BAD NEWS, VINCENT,
PIGHASSLE, DE DROOLING...
THIS STUFF JUST AIN'T
SELLIN'!!

CLATTER

BAH! THIS WORK'S
ALL ANCIENT HISTORY!!
COME E.Z. AND I'LL SHOW
YOU THE NEW MOTIONISTIC
EXPRESSION!!

CLACK!

AN HOUR OR SO LATER...

SEE! EACH PAINTING
REFLECTS MY AGILITY!!
MY MOTION! MY VERY
STATE OF EXISTENCE THE
INSTANT I TOUCH THE
CANVAS!!!

SPLUP

SPLUP

HERE E.Z. TAKE
THESE. AND TELL TH'
WORLD, "VINCENT
VAN HOG TRIUMPHS
AT LAST!!"

E.Z. WOLF'S NOT
TOO IMPRESSED
WITH VINCENT VAN
HOG'S MOTIONISTIC
FORM OF
EXPRESSION..

LISTEN VINCENT...I
CANT SELL THIS KIND
OF STUFF! I'M GOIN'
BROKE! AND YOU'RE
STARVING!

THEN I'LL STARVE!
NEVER WILL I
RENDER PEDESTRIAN
IMAGES! NEVER!

CLUNCH!

HEY! CALM
DOWN! I AIN'T
ASKIN' YOU TO SELL
OUT! JUST TO DO
SOMETHIN' THAT'LL
SELL!!

BAH!!
IMBECILES!

SPLAT!

HEY. THAT WAS
PRETTY GOOD! YOU
OUGHTA TRY OUT FOR
A BASEBALL TEAM!

BASEBALL!? AGH!
LOOK YOU IDIOT!
MOTIONISTIC EXPRESSION!
I HIT THE EXACT
CENTER OF THE PAINTING!

HMMM..BUT
CAN YOU HIT TH'
CENTER EVERY
TIME?..

OF COURSE!
EVERY TIME!
YOU'LL SEE!
I'LL SET UP
MORE CANVASES!

A STRENUOUS HOUR OR SO LATER

I DONT KNOW
VINCENT. ONLY TWO
OUT OF TEN IN TH' EXACT
CENTER... THATS NOT
SO GOOD.

THE FAULT LIES
WITHIN ME!!
VINCENT VAN HOG
MUST BE CENTERED
BEFORE HE CAN
HIT THE CENTER!

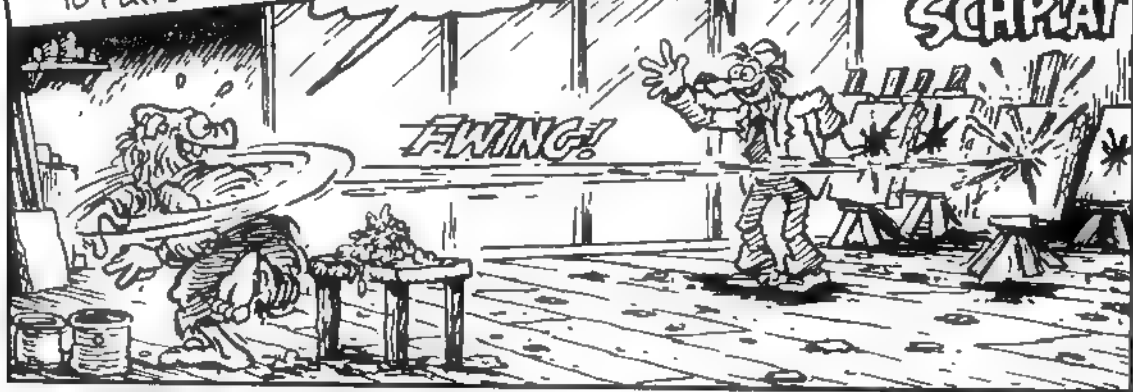
AFTER FIRST FAILING,
VINCENT VAN HOG, AND
E. Z. HONE AND POLISH
THE MOTIONISTIC EXPRESSION
PAINTING TECHNIQUE
TO PERFECTION.

AHA! YOU
SEE E.Z.? I NOW
HIT THE CENTER
EVERY TIME!

AND FROM
SIXTY FEET OUT!
I THINK WE GOT
SOMETHIN' VINCENT!

SCHPLAT

FWING!



AND SO A FEW
WEEKS LATER
WE FIND THE
ARTIST AND HIS
AGENT AWAITING
THEIR FIRST
GALLERY OPENING.

THE DOORS ARE OPENED
THE CROWD POURS FORTH



E.Z. WOLF HAS CLEVERLY ADVERTIZED THE
OCCASION AS "AN EVENT IN PERFECT MOTI-
ONISTIC EXPRESSION. A ZEN EXPERIENCE".

SILENCE! I GIVE
YOU VINCENT
VAN HOG!!

I AM THE
CENTER

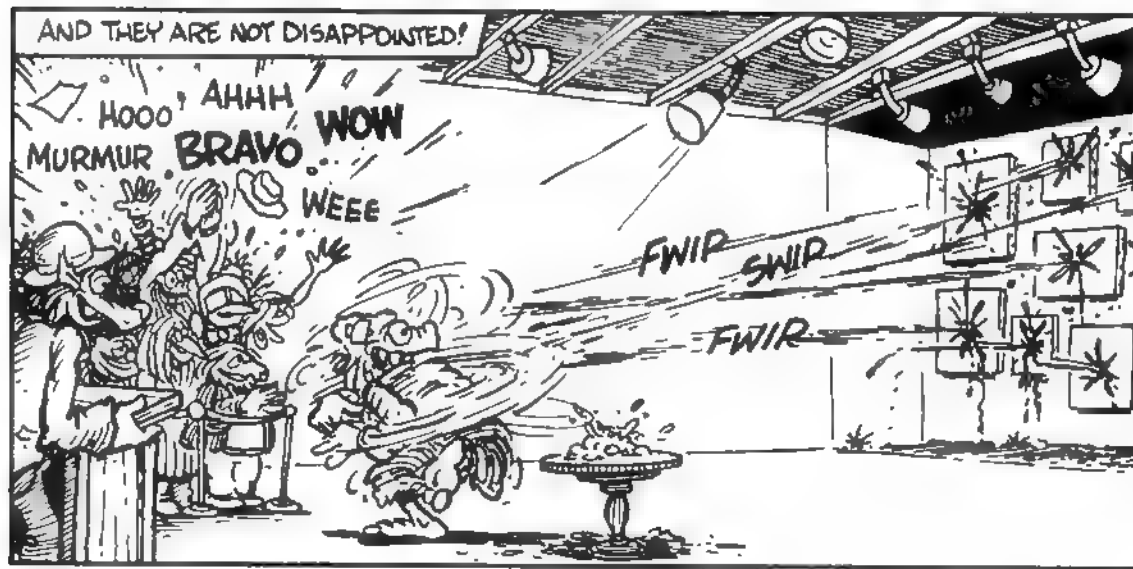


AND THEY ARE NOT DISAPPOINTED!

HOOO! AHHH
MURMUR BRAVO WOW
WEEE

FWIP SWIP

FWIR



VINCENT VAN HOGG'S
GALLERY OPENING
APPEARS TO BE A
SMASHING SUCCESS!

STEP RIGHT UP
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
\$1000 A CRACK! A REAL
BARGAIN FOR A PAINTING
OF THE EXACT CENTER!!



WHAT A CHARADE! THIS
VULGAR DEMONSTRATION, REPLETE
WITH CARNIVAL BARKER DARES
TO PAWN ITSELF OFF AT QUOTE,
"\$1000 A CRACK"?"



HOWEVER... SHOULD WE BE WITNESS
TO THE MONALISA HERSELF BEING
HAWKED AS A TAWDRY BELLY DANCER,
THEN THE ENTIRE AFFAIR COULD BE
JUSTIFIED BY THE FACT THAT WE WOULD
AT LEAST BE BUYING A PIECE OF ART!!



BUT PLEASE, SERIOUS CONNOISSEURS OF
ART, LET ME SUGGEST THAT VAN HOGG'S
EXACT CENTER IS A FRAUD! HIS CLAIM
VIOLATES THE VERY LAWS OF RELATIVITY!
THE EXACT CENTER DOES NOT EXIST!!



AND FURTHERMORE...
AGPHH! NOO!
GASP! (VIP) OOH!
SHOCK
OOH! AAH!
SCHWUT



AHHA!
ONCE AGAIN
I HIT THE
EXACT
CENTER!

AND SO WHERE ONCE AN ANXIOUS THROG
STOOD WITH OPEN CHECKBOOKS, THERE
REMAINS BUT ONE LONE ADMIRER.

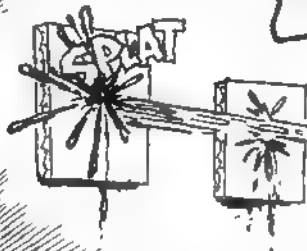


HOWDY... NAMES
CHARLIE O'MULE. I'M THE
OWNER OF THE BEANTOWN
BUCKS BASEBALL
TEAM.

IT APPEARS VINCENT VAN HOGG'S MOTIONISTIC EXPRESSION GALLERY OPENING HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A **BUST!** BUT NOT ALL IS LOST!

I SAID THE NAME'S **CHARLIE O'MULE**. I OWN TH' **BEANTOWN 'B's** BASEBALL TEAM... AND I WANNA KNOW IF YOU CAN **SLING A BASEBALL** LIKE YOU DO A **LUMP OF OIL PAINT?**

AGH!! BASEBALL!? NEVER!!



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HOLD ON VINCENT...UH CHARLIE JUST WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU CAN **HIT THE CENTER** OF A CATCHER'S MITT WHILE **MILLIONS OF PEOPLE** ...ER **EXPERIENCE TH' EVENT!**

I AM THE CENTER..



E.Z. STRIKES A DEAL WITH CHARLIE AND SOON AFTER THE ARTIST AND AGENT FIND THEMSELVES ABOARD A **JET PLANE** (NIGHT COACH, NO FRILLS) ENROUTE TO THE **BEANTOWN BUCKS SPRING TRAINING CAMP**...



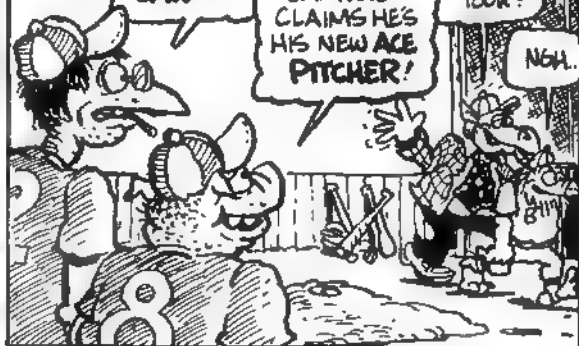
AND THE NEXT DAY, THE **BUCKS COACHES** CATCH THEIR FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE NEW ARRIVAL...

HEY!! WHO'S THAT **LITTLE PIG** WITH TH' **MISSING EAR**...

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE TAKE A **LITTLE TOUR?**

CHARLIE CLAIMS HE'S HIS **NEW ACE PITCHER!**

NGH..



NOW HERE'S **BEANPOLE BENSON**. HIS JOB IS TO PLAY OUTFIELD WHEN A HOME RUN HITTER IS UP TO BAT.

AND **GONZILLA GARRETS** OUR HOME RUN THREAT..

WE'VE CONSTRUCTED A SPECIAL BAT FOR HIM OUT OF A **TELEPHONE POLE**..

AND **BUNDMAN BAT** HANDLES THE RELIEF PITCHING...

NOW THE **DODO**.. WELL LET'S SAY HE DONT MIND BEING HIT WITH A PITCH..

TH **CHIMP** NEVER MISSES A **GROUND BALL**...

DONK!

BOP!



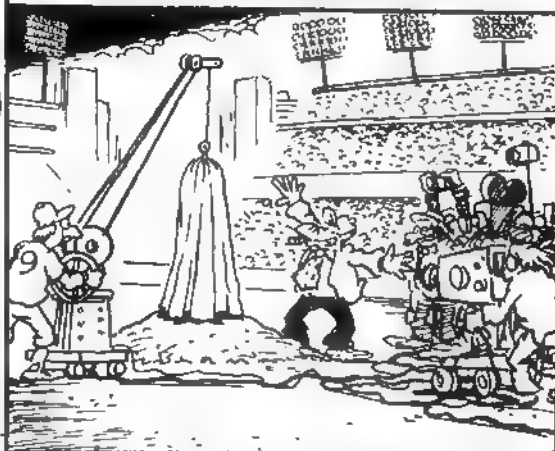
CONVERTING A FINE ARTIST INTO A SKILLED AND FORMIDABLE BASE-BALL PITCHER IS A TOUGH JOB. BUT E.Z. AND CHARLIE O'MULE BOTH SEE THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF SUCH AN ENTERPRISE...



THE WEEKS SLIP BY AND AS OPENING DAY DRAWS NEAR, CHARLIE O'MULE'S "PITCHING ARTIST" IS SUDDENLY GETTING A LOT OF INK IN THE SPORTING PRESS...



ON OPENING DAY CHARLIE O'MULE UNVEILS HIS PITCHING ARTIST BEFORE A SELL-OUT CROWD AT NEW YORK'S **BOMBER STADIUM**.



TWO HOURS LATER VINCENT VAN HOG PITCHES AN INCREDIBLE **PERFECT GAME** AGAINST THE FEARSOME NEW YORK BOMBERS!



CHARLIE O'MULE'S DONE IT AGAIN! THE BEANTOWN BUCKS ARE BONAFIDE PENNANT CONTENDERS!



THEY'RE SOON CALLING VINCENT VAN HOG THE M-O EXPRESS AS HE CHALKS UP VICTORY AFTER VICTORY...



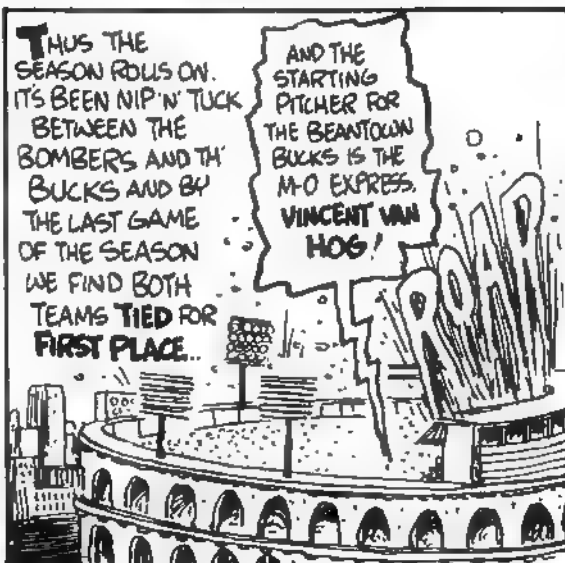
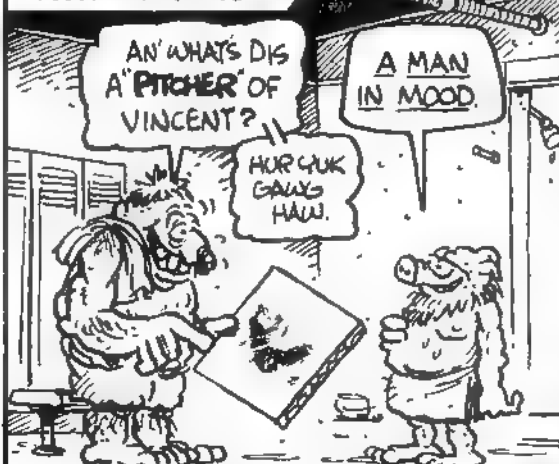
OCCASIONALLY A SKILLFUL PLAYER MANAGES A BASE HIT. BUT THIS ONLY EXCITES HIS ARTISTIC TEMPERAMENT.



VINCENT'S SUCCESS OF COURSE PROMPTS HIS AGENT, E.Z. WOLF, TO CONSIDER A FINANCIAL STRATEGY...



AND DESPITE VINCENT'S FINEART BACKGROUND, HE SEEMS TO GET ALONG NICELY WITH HIS FELLOW TEAMATES...



FOR EIGHT INNINGS THE PITCHING ARTIST APPEARS TO BE ON THE VERGE OF HIS GREATEST VICTORY.



SUDDENLY VINCENT GETS AN IDEA!



THE ENTIRE STADIUM IS STILL UNAWARE THAT VINCENT VAN HOGH HAS DECIDED TO TRY HITTING THE CENTER OF THE BATTER'S BATS INSTEAD OF THE SPECIAL CANVAS COVERED CATCHER'S MITT!



BALL ONE!



AND TO COMPLICATE MATTERS, E.Z. WOLF HAS CHOSEN THIS MOMENT TO SPRING HIS DEAL ON CHARLIE OMULE...

WELL CHARLIE, HERE'S THE CONTRACT I MENTIONED...

HUH? YOU SURE PICKED THE DARNDEST TIME TO SHOW ME THIS!



WHAT! VINCENT VAN HOGH HEREBY AGREES TO \$30 MILLION FOR 10 YEARS! WHY THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! YOU'RE AS NUTTY AS THAT PITCHER OF YOURS!!

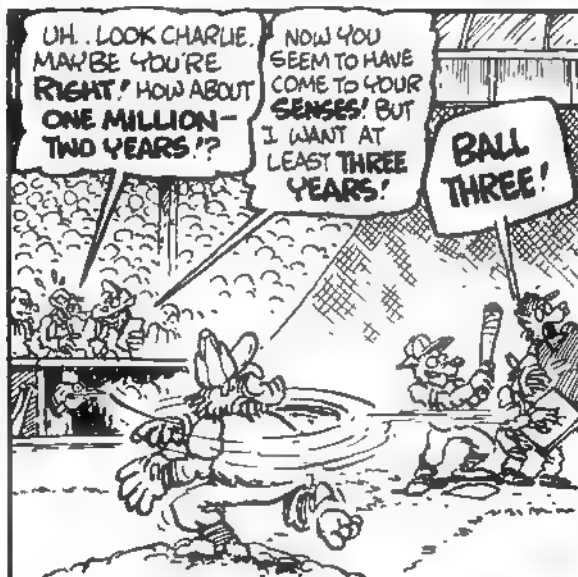
BALL TWO!



UH... LOOK CHARLIE, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! HOW ABOUT ONE MILLION - TWO YEARS!?

NOW YOU SEEM TO HAVE COME TO YOUR SENSES! BUT I WANT AT LEAST THREE YEARS!

BALL THREE!



OK! YOU GOT IT CHARLIE! TWO MILLION THREE YEARS! SIGN RIGHT HERE...

IT'S A DEAL E.Z.... BUT LET'S WRITE ALL THAT DOWN FIRST!



HUH!? WAIT JUST A MINUTE E.Z. WHAT'S THIS?!

BALL FOUR!



VINCENT VAN HOGH IS FINDING IT A BIT MORE DIFFICULT TO HIT A BATTERS BAT THAN THE CENTER OF THE CANVAS CATCHER'S MITT!

WOOP!
AGH! I CANNOT FIND TH' CENTER!!

BALL TWO!

WHUP!

SEVERAL MORE PITCHES LATER, THE BASES ARE LOADED AND MANAGER PETE PELICAN RUSHES TO THE MOUND!



C'MON VINCENT! SHAKE IT OFF! JUST ONE MORE OUT AND WE WIN THE PENNANT!

AGH! SHOVE YOUR PENNANT! I CAN'T FIND THE CENTER!

C'MON VINCENT! TH' CENTER IS RIGHT HERE!

PELICAN IS SO CONFUSED BY VINCENT'S BABBLE THAT HE CONSULTS WITH CHARLIE O'MULE!!

I TOLD YOU...HE SAYS HE CAN'T FIND THE CENTER. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKIN' ABOUT!!

YEA!! WELL YOU TELL HIM I'M GONNA CUT OFF HIS OTHER EAR IF HE DON'T STRIKE OUT THAT BATTER!



OH, EXCUSE ME CHARLIE. BUT IF YOU SIGN THIS CONTRACT, I'LL TELL Y'ALL HOW TO GET OL' VINCENT BACK ON THE CENTER!!

HUH? YOU'LL DO WHAT!!

TAKE IT CHARLIE! HES THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS TH' SECRET!!

O.K. WE GOT A DEAL?

NOT SO FAST E.Z.! LET'S WRITE ON THE CONTRACT: IF VINCENT GETS THE NEXT BATTER OUT AND MY TEAM, THE BUCKS, WIN TH' PENNANT!!



HERE'S THE DEAL...
IF VINCENT VAN HOGH GETS
THE NEXT BATTER OUT HE'LL
BE WORTH TWO MILLION
DOLLARS! AND E-Z WOLF'S
COUNTIN' ON HIS SECRET
ADVICE TO NET HIM A
HANDSOME 15%!!
AGENT'S FEE!!

NOW LISTEN
CLOSELY VINCENT.
E-Z WANTS TO
REMIND YOU THAT
**YOU ARE THE
CENTER.**

RIGHT!

YEP...THIS
CENTER AND
YOU ARE ONE
AND TH'S SAME!

BUT BEFORE WE
CONTINUE, LET'S RECAP
THE GAME...THE
BASES ARE LOADED...
...LAST OF TH NINTH...
...TWO OUTS, THE
BUCKS ARE LEADING
THE BOMBERS
3 TO 0...

I AM
THE
CENTER.

VAN HOGH WINDS, HE
DELIVERS—OH NO! ANOTHER
WILD PITCH! BUT THE
BALL HITS THE BAT!!

DLONK!

SHOOOP

IT'S GOING...

**GOING
GOING**

OVER THE HEAD OF
BEANPOLE BENSON!
GONE! HOMERUN!
BOMBERS WIN TH'
PENNANT!!!!



LOOK...CHARLIE!
THIS IS ALL MY
FAULT! HE JUST
HIT THE **WRONG
CENTER!** LOOK!
HOW ABOUT \$10,000
FOR TEN YEARS??

I'M GONNA
CUT HIS
OTHER
EAR OFF!!

E-Z! LOOK!
I HIT THE
CENTER! I
HIT THE CENTER!
I (GORN) AGH!
YIPE!!

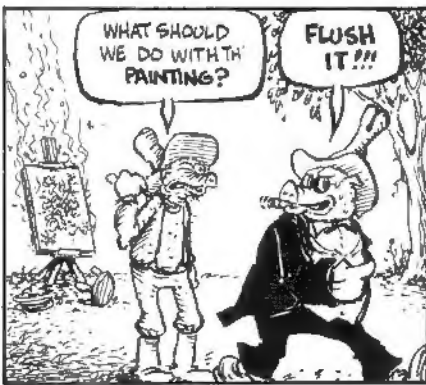
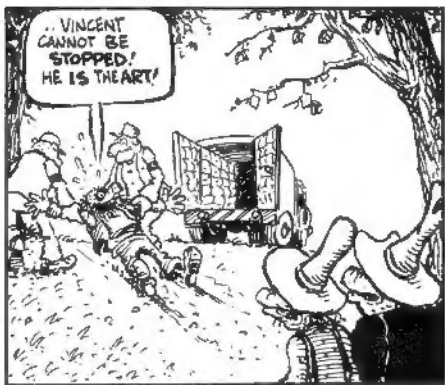
E-Z WOLF ENDED UP
TEMPORARILY
RETIRED FROM THE
AGENT BUSINESS, BUT
HE'LL BE BACK! AND
VINCENT?...WELL HE
MANAGED TO KEEP HIS
REMAINING EAR AND HE
TOO WILL BE BACK—AFTER
A WELL DESERVED
REST!!

A CLASSIC
CASE OF
SCHIZO-
CENTRO-
MANIA!!

I AM
THE
CENTER!
I AM THE
CENTER!

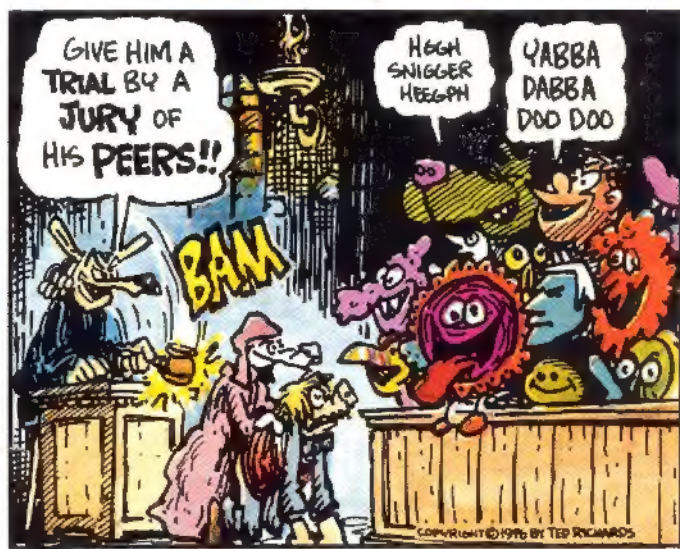
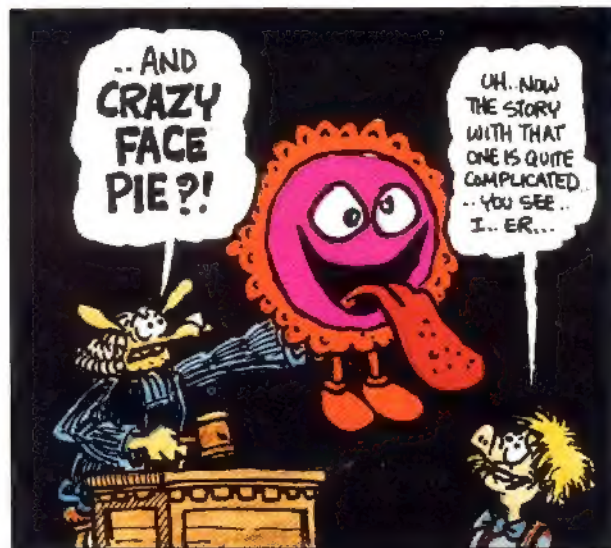


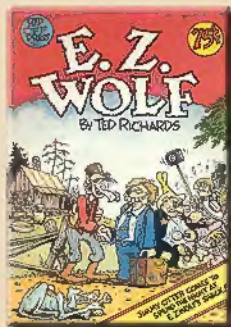
THE END



E.Z. WOLF'S KANGAROO COURT

By TED RICHARDS





Sir Real's

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COMIX CLASSIX**

E. Z. Wolf

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Comments:

n/a